

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/729,087

Examiner

Matthew Johnson

Applicant(s)

BISHOP, PHILLIP A.

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 3/15/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-10, 12-16 and 18-23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/16/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gregory Robinette on 5/16/2007.

In the claims:

- In claim 1, lines 5-6 have been replaced with --a ring disposed in said bore, said ring including a generally cylindrical body having a longitudinal axis, said cylindrical body having a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, an outer surface of said--.
- In claim 1 line 8, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.
- In claim 1 line 11, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.
- In claim 5 line 2, the term "engaging" has been replaced with --engages--.
- In claim 5 line 3, the term "engaging" has been replaced with --engages--.
- In claim 10, lines 5-6 have been replaced with --a ring disposed in said bore, said ring including a generally cylindrical body having a longitudinal axis, said cylindrical body having a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, an outer surface of said--.

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- In claim 10 line 8, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.
- In claim 10 line 11, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.
- In claim 12, lines 10-11 have been replaced with --a ring disposed in said bore, said ring including a generally cylindrical body having a longitudinal axis, said cylindrical body having a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, an outer surface of said--.
- In claim 12 line 13, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.
- In claim 12 line 16, the term "extreme" has been replaced with --longitudinal--.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claims 1, 10 and 12, the prior art of record does not teach nor render obvious the claimed combination comprising a ring including a generally cylindrical body portion having a longitudinal axis, the body portion having a first longitudinal end and a second longitudinal end, an outer surface of the body portion having a first diameter, and an outer surface of the first and second longitudinal ends defining an inner contact surface and having a second diameter greater than said first diameter, the ring further including an outer contact surface, the inner contact surfaces of the first and second longitudinal ends engaging at least a portion of the inner surface of the bore and the outer contact surface engaging at least a portion of the outer surface of the bearing.

Conclusion

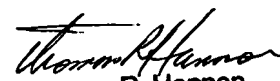
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew Johnson whose telephone number is 571-272-7944. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MJ

MJ 5/24/2007


Thomas R. Hannon
Primary Examiner